

## **REMARKS**

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed December 8, 2008 and offers the following remarks to accompany the above amendments.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 12-15, 17, 20, 21, 26-29, 32, and 34-36 have been amended. No new matter has been added and no new search is required. Claims 5, 10, 11, 19, 24, 25, and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 18, and 30 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-17, 20-23, 26-29, and 32-36 remain pending.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-14, 19-28, and 31-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Likewise, independent claims 15 and 29 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claims 19 and 31, respectively. Claims 5, 19, and 31 have been cancelled. Independent claims 1, 15, and 29 now contain subject matter that has been deemed allowable by the Patent Office and are thus in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 17 have been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1-3, 15-17, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,091,808 to Wood et al. (hereinafter "Wood") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,841 to Isono (hereinafter "Isono"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

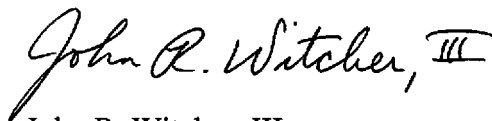
Since claims 1, 15, and 29 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 19, and 31, respectively, claims 1, 15, and 29 are now in condition for allowance. The claim dependency of claims 6, 7, and 12-14 have been amended such that claims 6, 7, and 12-14 now depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, which now contains allowable subject matter. Likewise, claims 20, 21, and 26-28 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 15, which now contains allowable subject matter. Claims 32 and 34-36 have also been amended such that they depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 29, which now contains allowable subject matter.

As a result, claims 2, 3, 6-9, and 12-14 now depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1. Claims 16, 17, 20-23, and 26-28 now depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 15. Claims 32-36 now depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 29. Thus, dependent claims 2, 3, 6-9, 12-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26-28, and 32-36 are also allowable as depending from claims that contain subject matter deemed allowable by the Patent Office. Accordingly, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's representative regarding any remaining issues in an effort to expedite allowance and issuance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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